

Brenham City Council Minutes

A workshop meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on May 12, 2011 beginning at 8:30 a. m. in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members present:

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Nix
Councilmember Keith Herring
Council member Andrew Ebel
Councilmember Charlie Pyle
Councilmember Danny Goss
Councilmember Weldon Williams, Jr.

Others present:

City Manager Terry Roberts, Assistant City Manager Kyle Dannhaus, City Secretary Jeana Bellinger, Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Miller, Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, Police Chief Rex Phelps, Public Works Director Doug Baker, Community Services Director Wesley Brinkmeyer, Stacy Hardy, Debbie Gaffey, and Angela Hahn

Citizens present:

None

Media Present:

Arthur Hahn, Brenham Banner Press; Frank Wagner, KWHI

- 1. Mayor Tate called the meeting to order**
- 2. FY2011-12 Pre-Budget Planning**

City Manager, Terry Roberts, welcomed everyone and explained that the budget team has taken a strategic look at where the City is financially as we head into the FY2012 budget season. He advised Council that Budget Officer, Debbie Gaffey, has assembled a significant amount of financial data to help Council better understand the City's position. He then turned the presentation over to Ms. Gaffey.

Ms. Gaffey presented her FY2012 Capital Funding report to Council. She discussed in detail the following:

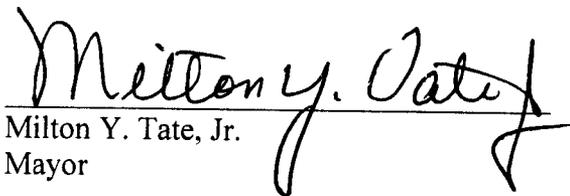
- History of the O&M tax rate;
- Changes in taxable property valuations;
- Changes in sales tax revenue;
- Changes in utility franchise tax;
- Capital projects budget (net of personnel costs);
- Street maintenance budgets;
- Personnel expenditures;
- Debt service fund capacity; and
- Projected new debt issuance capacity

In closing, Ms. Gaffey asked Council to consider the following options and provide feedback to staff so that work can begin on bringing them a balanced budget later in the summer:

1. Is Council willing to support an increase in the O&M rate to help fund capital expenditures?
2. Is Council willing to adopt the effective tax rate, if it is higher than the current tax rate?
3. Will Council support a management directive to reduce personnel costs through a reduction-in-force?
4. Is Council willing to expand debt capacity over and beyond the Highway 290 project?
5. Would Council prefer to simply defer capital spending to a future budget?

Council advised staff that they would like to consider all of the options and asked if staff could provide them more specific details related to each option.

The meeting was adjourned.


Milton Y. Tate, Jr.
Mayor


Jeana Bellinger, TRMC
City Secretary

